

REMARKS

Applicant's representative acknowledges with gratitude the Examiner's courtesy in participating in a telephone interview on July 12 to discuss the present amendment. Based on that discussion, Applicant's representative believes that the claims are considered by the Examiner to be patentable over the art of record. Applicant's representative acknowledges that the Examiner will perform a new search on the claims as amended prior to determining the disposition of the application.

Claims 1-6, 17-19, 23, and 29-31 are pending in the application. By the present amendment, claims 1 and 17 have been amended and new claims 32-39 have been added. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims in a continuing application. Consideration of all pending claims in light of any amendments thereto and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,961,456 to Manlove. Claim 1, as amended, recites a cabinet made up of cabinet panels, at least one of which includes a groove on an inner portion of a front edge that is located where the panel inner surface meets the front edge of the panel to leave a front edge remainder portion. The outer surface of the grooved panel is un-grooved along substantially the entirety of the front edge.

Applicant's representative respectfully submits that Manlove does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 1. For example, Manlove does not disclose a grooved panel to which edging is attached that has an outer surface that is un-grooved. The outer surface of the panel in Manlove is grooved to allow for a snap fit arrangement between the edging and panel (Col. 2, Ln. 62-70). For at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependant claims 3-6, 29, 30 and 32-35 are patentable over Manlove.

New claim 32 has been added that depends from claim 1. Claim 32 recites U-shaped edging in which the second leg has a substantially flat outer surface. This substantially flat outer surface facilitates installation of an adjacent cabinet and provides a more uniform appearance in instances in which the cabinets do not perfectly align. Applicant's representative submits that this feature is not disclosed by Manlove, which shows a curved decorative edge suited for stand alone cabinets.

New claim 33 has been added that depends from claim 1. Claim 33 recites U-shaped edging in which first and second legs have approximately equal lengths. Applicant's

representative submits that this feature is not disclosed by Manlove. Rather, the edging shown in Manlove has a second leg that is longer than the first leg. In Manlove, the second leg is purposely made longer to conceal any chipping that may occur when the outer surface of the panel is grooved (Col. 4, Ln. 20-25).

New claim 34 has been added that depends from claim 1. Claim 34 recites U-shaped edging in which the first and second legs have a substantially planar interior surface that is parallel to the outer surface of the grooved panel. Applicant's representative submits that this feature is not disclosed by Manlove. The edging of Manlove does not have substantially planar inner surfaces due to the use of a snap-fit between the panel and edging.

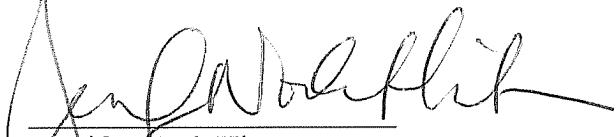
New claim 35 has been added that depends from claim 1. Claim 35 recites a groove that has a generally rectangular shape having a side edge that is generally parallel to the outer surface and a rear edge that is generally perpendicular to the outer surface. Applicant's representative submits that this feature is not disclosed by Manlove. The panel in Manlove does not have a groove with a side edge that is generally parallel to the outer surface and a rear edge that is generally perpendicular to the outer surface. Rather, the groove of Manlove has a half key-hole profile due to the use of a snap-fit between the panel and edging (Col. 2, Ln. 58-61).

Claim 17 stands rejected as anticipated by Schorghuber and Manlove. Claim 17 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 and now recites a cabinet made up of cabinet panels, at least one of which includes an interior front edge groove. The exterior surface of the grooved panel is un-grooved. Applicant's representative submits that amended claim 17 is patentable over Manlove for the reasons outlined above for claim 1. Further, the grooved panel of Schorghuber includes a groove on its exterior surface to maintain the edging in position that provides clearance between the edging and the panel to house fasteners such as those shown in Figure 10. For at least these reasons, claim 17 and its dependant claims 18, 19, 23, 31, and 36-39 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, applicant's representative submits that all of the claims in this case (i.e., claims 1, 3-6, 17-19, 23, and 29-39) are now in condition for allowance and an indication to that effect is earnestly solicited. If the USPTO believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this case, the USPTO should feel free to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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